



## Winter Weather Plan

### **I. General Information**

#### **A. Introduction**

The following winter weather plan attempts to establish in written form a general reference for governing snow and ice removal operations in the Town of Carrboro. The winter weather plan is designed to effectively utilize and commit town personnel and equipment resources as determined. The type of response, personnel, and equipment to be used will be dependent on the type and severity of the winter storm and the known or anticipated future weather conditions. This document provides a general guide for snow removal operations and a base method for responding to snow events.

#### **B. Responsibility**

The Carrboro Public Works Department is primarily responsible for responding and reducing winter weather related roadway hazards associated with accumulations of ice or snow on roadways on Town maintained streets, Town maintained facilities and parking lots. The department also responds to winter weather hazards on State maintained roads in town.

### **C. Policies**

#### **1. Salt-brine Pretreatment**

Based on the type and severity of the weather conditions forecast, the Street Superintendent will determine the application of salt brine pre-treatment of designated roadways. Salt brine is not applied when the storm is forecasted to start out as a rain event, as the rain washes the brine off of the roadways. When a determination is made to apply salt brine, it is applied to hills, bridges, overpasses, and emergency service areas within 24-48 hours of the beginning of a storm.

#### **2. Ice**

During moderate icing conditions, trucks will begin sanding or salting of major thoroughfares, hills, curves, and bridges.

#### **3. Snow Removal**

Snow should be at least two (2") inches deep and falling or additional accumulation forecasted prior to snowplow operations beginning. Major emphasis is placed on arterial/collector streets, hills, and approaches to emergency facilities with secondary priority given to local residential streets.



## Town of Carrboro Public Works Department

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If snow accumulations become so great as to require hauling, the snow stockpiles will be disposed of at Anderson Community Park and/or at other snow dumping areas so designated by the Director of Public Works or the Street Superintendent.

### **4. Clearing of Sidewalks**

The Public Works Department will clear sidewalks around Town maintained facilities, such as Town Hall and the Century Center. As time permits, crews will begin clearing Town maintained parking lots, bus stops, and handicap access ramp entrances. Per section 7-6 of the Town code, every occupant of a store building, in front of which the sidewalk is paved with stone, brick, asphalt, or cement, shall remove snow, ice or other similar obstruction from such sidewalk at the earliest possible time and as soon as weather permits. Residents are encouraged to clear sidewalks in front of or adjacent to their property, and should not block access points such as handicap access ramps.

## **II. Safe Driving Tips**

During severe weather periods, drivers are encouraged to avoid any unnecessary travel. If drivers must travel during these times, they are encouraged to follow safe driving tips, such as:

- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Avoid driving while you're fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.
- Keep at least half a tank of gasoline in your vehicle at all times.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, and turning – nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.
- The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill as slowly as possible.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.